(c) in what manner Government propose to finance these projects in the backdrop of dwindling budgetory support; and

(d) whether Government would curtail provisions available for other schemes to finance these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Project Unigauge has been taken up under which 11,000 kms of MG/NG lines have been identified for conversion, of this 6,000 kms are planned for conversion during 92-93.

(c) These projects will be financed out of our available resources.

(d) No, Sir.

Railway Accidents

2528. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway accidents that took place during the period January 1992 to September, 1992;

(b) how many of these involved in goods trains and passenger trains;

(c) the number of passenger killed and injured and the damage to railway property because of these accidents;

(d) the number of accidents due to derailments;

(e) the steps taken to minimise derailment; and

(f) how do the figures compare with the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (f)

S. No.	Period (Jan. to Sept.)	No. of accidents			Accidents due to derailments	No. of casualties		Cost of damage to Railway Property (in lacs of Rs.)
		Pass. trains	Goods trains	Total		Killed	Injured	
1.	1992	169	244	413	333	82	291	2781.18
2.	1991	129	273	402	343	44	314	2397.90
3.	1990	131	281	412	345	154	439	2624.22
4.	1989	136	300	436	375	97	534	1146.71

Steps taken to minimise derailments

Some of the steps taken to minimise derailments are :—

(i) Continuing emphasis on renewal and rehabilitation of overaged assets, particularly track, bridges and rolling stock.

(ii) Improvement in quality of outturn from the workshops.

(iii) Intensive inspections of telecom gears maintenance depots of coaches, wagons and locomotives.

(iv) Intensive monitoring of the working of sensitive categories of staff such as drivers and station masters.

Awarding of contract for the Supply of Three Phase Electric Locomotives

2529. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the A.B.B. (Asia Brown Boveri) have deried having given the alleged kickbacks in awarding of contract for the supply of 30 AC three phase 6,000 HP Electric Locomotive by the Indian Railways as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20th October, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating whether transfer of complete technology to India involved in this deal,

and speed of passenger/goods local trains imported;

(c) what amount of investment/foreign exchange involved in this transaction and amount already invested in India by ABB so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Ministry of Railways have no comments to offer in respect of report published in the Hindustan Times dated 20th October, 1992, as it relates to the Press Conference addressed by the representatives of M/s. ABB.

(b) (i) Does not arise.

(ii) The Advance letter of Acceptance to M/s. ABB also involves transfer of technology to India.

(iii) Does not arise as import involved is for electric locos and not for passenger/goods local trains.

(c) The amount of foreign exchange involved in the purchase of 6000 HP 3 phase electric locomotives alongwith transfer of technology and supply of special tools, Jigs, fixtures, maintenance spares and testing kits etc. on FOB basis in Swiss Francs—169,689,970 and Deutsche Marks—139,140,250. Ministry of Railways have no comments to offer regarding amount already invested in India by ABB so far.

Book Stalls on Railways

2530. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per policy letter No. 73/TG III/461/9/IMP Delhi-14-10/1980 & 73 TG III/461/9/IMP/PTI dated 24th February, 1984, the existing book stall contractor of unemployed graduate partnership firm have the right to get upto 12 book stalls on the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that in response to the advertisement, various applications received from unemployed graduates including partnership firms and interview was held on 19th October, 1992 by the Screening Committee for award of book stall contract at Anand Vihar Station; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not deciding the case on merit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. As per Policy, Zonal Railways may allot additional book stall (s) beyond five but upto a ceiling limit of 12 to individual partnerships of unemployed graduates without obtaining prior approval of Ministry of Railways subject to satisfactory performance of the partnerships.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In response to press advertisement dated 11-8-1992 notified by Delhi Division, for award of a Book stall contract at Anand Vihar station, 7 candidates applied who were invited for an interview. Only 3 candidates appeared before the Screening Committee, and none was found to be suitable.

अलाभकर रेलवे लाइनों को लाभकर बनाया जाना

2531. श्री मूलचन्द मीणा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अलाभकर रेलवे लाइनों को लाभकारी लाइनों में परिवर्तित करने की कोई योजना बनाई गई है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि धौलपुर-सरमथुरा मीटर गेज लाइन के कारण रेलवे को हानि हो रही है; यदि हां तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस लाइन को लाभकारी बनाने के उद्देश्य से इस रेलवे लाइन को सरमथुरा से गंगापुर शहर तक जोड़ने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां तो ऐसा कब तक किया जाएगा; और